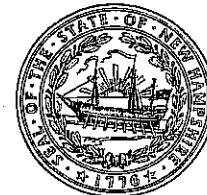




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Tara Reardon, Chairman
Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative office Building, Room 302
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB-350-R, Relative to Household Cleaning Products Containing Phosphorus

Dear Chairman Reardon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 350, which would ban all household cleansing products that contain over trace amounts of phosphorus. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

RSA 485-A:56, which prohibits the sale of most household cleansing products containing phosphates, became effective on January 1, 1994. However, dishwasher detergents were specifically exempted from this prohibition because of concerns that phosphorus-free detergents did not have the same cleaning properties as phosphorus-based detergents in dishwashers. We understand that this is no longer a concern because phosphorus-free detergents have improved over the last 15 years.

Elevated phosphorus concentrations can trigger algae and cyanobacteria blooms because phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient for propagation of these organisms in fresh water lakes and rivers. Therefore, we should take advantage of any opportunity to limit phosphorus inputs from sources, such as household cleansing products, as would occur with the passage of HB 350.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 271-2958 or Jody Connor at 271-3414.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Gottling
Rep. Shurtleff
Rep. Millham
Rep. Hills
Rep. Davis
Sen. Cilley
Sen. Merrill
Sen. Odell

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